Nasrine Lakabi

Amy Leonard

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Essay 1- Final Draft

16 and Dumb

“I can’t believe we just killed a deer!” I shouted. How many people can say that they nearly saw their life and the life of three friends almost come to an end at the age of sixteen. Technology has played a crucial role for the human race in terms of being able to send instant messages across the globe, keeping people connected from two different sides of the world and all the technological advancements that has helped people through engineering and medicine. However, many times people do not discuss a common issue that many people face with technology and that is addiction. The addiction to technology almost caused the life of my friends and I when we were only juniors in high school just so that she could send a snapchat while driving down highway 9. After nearly losing our lives because of her phone, my usage with technology has changed ever since due to the fact that I first hand experienced the damage it can cause in a fraction of a second.

My friend, Stephanie had just turned sixteen and of course she was able to get her license. She wanted her first road trip to be up highway 9 to see a popular viewpoint that was always talked about and what was also the “cool” place to go to at our high school. Highway 9 is also known as a dangerous highway that is a 35 mile mountainous route with a breathtaking viewpoint with lots of sharp turns and no signal, a place where a new driver should probably not be driving. Nevertheless, my friends and I load up two cars at 9:30 pm, each car with four people and embark on our trip towards Santa Cruz where the entire drive up is filled with loud music, laughter and joy. We get to the top of the viewpoint and we take in the beautiful view that was “so worth the drive” and proceed to take pictures and explore the area, before realizing that it was nearly 11pm and that we should head back home. We head back to our cars and begin to drive back home and Stephanie is going a little over the speed limit with the music up and getting a little carried away before we tell her to relax and drive safer, since one of our classmates had died on the same road from a car accident two weeks prior.

Twenty minutes go by and I see that my friend had taken a picture on snapchat and was typing out a caption with her eyes not on the road, something that nearly all teens are guilty of. I tell her to stop and she reassures me by saying “relax Nasrine, I’m almost done” but at that point it was already too late. A two hundred pound deer came sprinting onto the road leaving my friend zero time to react, running over the deer that came smashing into the windshield causing not only the car to spiral out of control and flip over but also instantly killing the deer. All the airbags blew up and the car was flipped and my friend driving was not responsive for a couple of seconds. My heart is pounding and as I begin to sweat and cry I scream “OH MY GOD STEPHANIE, ARE YOU OK! PLEASE SAY SOMETHING”, while I was also struggling to get my seatbelt off and trying to pull her out. My friends in the other car pulled over and ran for our assistance and pulled us out of there, and luckily none of us were injured other than a couple of scratches and bruises. Our instant reflex was to grab our phones and call the towing company as well as the police and our parents but to our disappointment we were stranded without any service.

Eight teenage girls along a deserted road with no cell service, a totaled car and a dead deer beside us was not how we intended our night to go. We still had about ten miles to go till the end of the mountain and it was not possible for us to walk down the rest of the path without facing even more danger. We stood in a circle and my friend Kendal exclaimed “We’re screwed, not only do we not have a car to fit us all, we’re trapped up here alone until someone comes find us.” It was not until that moment I realized how dependent I was on my phone thinking how the hell am I going to get myself out of a situation that my phone would usually solve. I was boiling with anger , so angry at Stephanie for what she had caused especially since I told her to stop prior to the accident, so I yelled, “How could you be so dumb? Why would you do something that not almost killed you but three other people?” She was is in utter shock and terrified as to what was going to happen that the only words she could softly speak were “I know, and I’m sorry. ” It was past midnight and extremely cold and it began to rain and our only option was to stay at the scene and hope for someone to drive by. After nearly two hours a park ranger approaches us asking what had happened and if we were ok and immediately calls the towing company as well as the police to escort us back home. The police arrived and our parents were contacted and we were taken back home to safety at 3 a.m. After the incident I was terrified to drive yet alone let anyone drive me in fear of them being on their phone and risking my life again, not having them realize the danger of using your phone while operating a vehicle.

In our society nearly everyone is exposed to some sort of technological device whether that be an iPhone, ipad, tablet, or laptop and we all share one common feature and that is self-dependence on our devices. The power of technology has helped advance the human race as a whole with its advanced engineering that is responsible for all the extraordinary things that has happened in fields such as medicine that has saved the lives of thousands. Nevertheless, technology is also responsible for nearly taking away the lives of four young girls and with that being said technology has hurt me by realizing how self-dependent and addicted we are as a society to such devices.